

It is respectfully submitted that Applicant's revision to claim 5, the specification and drawing overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection. To be more specific, amended claim 5 calls for:

A pair of connecting spring plates (2). Each of the connection spring plates comprising a base ^{end} and connection portion (2a), an intermediate portion (2c), a branch portion (2d) outwardly extending from the end of the intermediate portion so as to form an L-shape together with the intermediate portion, an overlap portion (2e) and a head end connecting portion (2b).

It is respectfully submitted that each of the above are clearly shown in the drawing and described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor's at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Accordingly, it is Applicants' contention that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 should be withdrawn.

Claims 4 and 5 were also rejected as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art in view of Ford and Cherian et al.

It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 5 and dependent claim 4 are clearly and patentably distinguished over Applicants' admitted prior art and the cited references. To be more specific, the prior art does not disclose or suggest Applicants' novel combination of elements.

For example, it is Applicants' contention that the references do not disclose or suggest the combination of a pair of connecting spring plates each of which comprises a base end connecting portion, an intermediate portion, a branch portion outwardly extending from the end of the

intermediate portion so as to form an L-shape together with the intermediate portion, an overlap portion, and a head end connecting portion. The references do not disclose or suggest the overlap portion being formed by turning an end portion of the branch portion in U-shape. Further, the references do not disclose or suggest the base end connecting portion being constructed and arranged for connection to a terminal of a sound generator by soldering and the connecting portion being turned into a U-shape for connection to a terminal of an outer circuit by pressing the head end connecting portion against the terminal. Accordingly, it is Applicants' contention that amended claim 5 and dependent claim 4 should be allowed.

The present invention is characterized in that a branch portion is outwardly extending from the end of the intermediate portion so as to form an L-shape together with the intermediate portion. It should be noted that the reaction force in the head end connecting portion acts to twist the intermediate portion (2c) because of the L-shape formed by the branch portion and the intermediate portion. However, the twist force of the intermediate portion resists the reaction force so that the intermediate portion supports the head end and the branch. Consequently, the contact pressure of the head end portion against the terminal is kept at a high pressure, thereby insuring the contact. It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose this concept. Accordingly, amended claim 5 and dependent claim 4 should be allowed. Since all of the claims are now in proper form and clearly

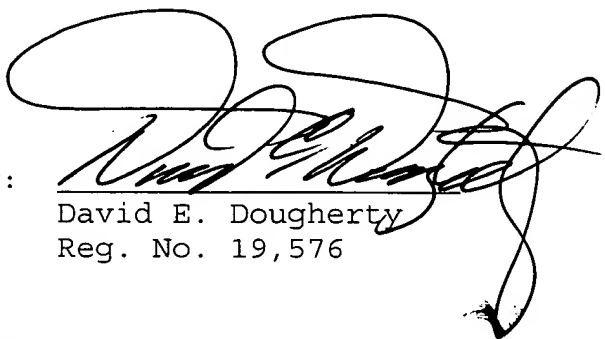
and patentably distinguished over the cited art, prompt favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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MARKED-UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace page 4 of the Specification with the enclosed pages 4 and 4a which are enclosed herewith in clean and marked-up versions.

IN THE CLAIMS:

5. (Amended) A connecting device for a sound generator comprising:

a pair of connecting spring [flat] plates [disposed in a plane adjacent to the sound generator], each of the connecting spring [flat] plates comprising a base end connecting portion, an intermediate [elongated flat] portion, a branch portion, outwardly extending from the end of the intermediate portion so as to form an L-shape together with the intermediate portion, an overlap portion, and a head end connecting portion, [the intermediate portion and the branch portion forming an L-shape in the plane of the connecting spring plates, the branch portion being extended away from the other connecting spring plate and turned into a U-shape at a halfway point so as to overlap with a base portion of the branch portion,]

the overlap portion being formed by turning an end portion of the branch portion in U-shape,

the base end connecting portion being constructed and arranged for connection to a terminal of a sound generator by soldering, and the head end connecting portion being turned into a U-shape for connecting to a terminal of an outer circuit by pressing the head end connecting portion against the terminal,

a surface of the base end connecting portion being coated with gold by gold plating;

a surface of the head end connecting portion being coated with gold by gold plating, and

said coating with gold by gold plating being limited to the base and the head end connecting portions.